

REMARKS

Claims of this application have been amended as shown above. No new matter has been added. Applicants ask the Patent Office to exam the amended claims as presented here.

To respond to the restriction requirement, Applicants elect Species A, Figs. 1-19 without traverse. The amended claims in this response belong to the elected Species A and therefore should be considered based on their merits.

Applicants' election is made without prejudice. As noted by the Examiner, upon the allowance of a generic claim, Applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to not more than a reasonable number of species in addition to the elected species, provided that all claims to each additional species are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.146.

An action on the merits of all the claims and a Notice of Allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Applicants believe no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-5252, under Order No. 09063-8002.US03 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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